eral Sherman wrote to Washington on the 4th of November that the enemy far outnumbered his own troops.[1] The Confederate force at Bowling Green was estimated by General C. F. Smith about the same time at 40,000 men.[2] It was really not a third of that number. In addition to the Confederate troops at Bowling Green, General Zollicoffer held Cumberland Gap and its vicinity with a force of 5000 or 6000 men, and General Polk held Columbus and other places on the Mississippi with 10,000 or 12,000 men. Works were also erected on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers; they were known as Forts Henry and Donelson. There was also a force of 2000 or 3000 men in the eastern part of Kentucky near the Virginia line. The strength of these various bodies was not accurately known by the Federal generals, and no doubt was usually much exaggerated. But however this might be, it seemed to General Sherman absolutely out of the question at that time for the Federals to take the offensive in any direction. Their forces ought to be largely augmented before any advance could be safely made, and the men needed a great deal of training to make them capable of acting efficiently in the field. The suggestion which the Secretary of War made to him on October

16, 1861,, that he should endeavor to occupy East Tennessee/ did not therefore meet with his acceptance. He felt that no step of that kind could then prudently be taken.

[1] 4 W. R., 332. *Cl. l* Sherman, 2cx> *ft stg.*
[2] 4 W. R., 340.
[3] 3 W. R., 548 ; I Sherman, 202, 203.